

**REMARKS**

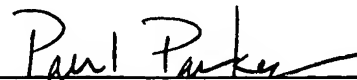
Claims 57-69 are presently pending in this application. Claims 57-69 were presented previously in the Preliminary Amendment filed on August 15, 2002, with the Response to Notice to File Missing Parts of Application. Claims 57-69 have not been amended in this paper.

Claims 57-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,420,262 issued to Farrar ("Farrar"). The rejection of claims 57-69 over Farrar is inappropriate because Farrar is not prior art under § 102(e). More specifically, the present application is a continuation under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/076,575 filed on May 12, 1998, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,376,374B1. The priority date of the present application is accordingly May 12, 1998. Farrar was filed on January 18, 2000, and Farrar does not appear to claim priority to an earlier filing date. Therefore, without commenting on the subject matter of Farrar, the rejection of claims 57-69 under Section 102(e) over Farrar is improper because these claims have a priority date that antedates the filing date of Farrar.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the cited art. The applicant accordingly requests reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call Paul Parker at (206) 359-3258.

Respectfully submitted,

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